

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS PIEDMONT BRANCH 1590 ADAMSON PARKWAY, SUITE 200 MORROW, GEORGIA 30260-1777

JUL 0 1 2009

Regulatory Division 200900700

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE Savannah District/State of Georgia

The Savannah District has received an application for a Department of the Army Permit, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), as follows:

Application Number: 200900700

Applicant: Aggregates USA, LLC

Attn: Mr. Donnie Walker 1263 Lite-n-Tie Road Macon, Georgia 31211

Agent:

Sligh Environmental Consultants, Inc

Attn: Mr. Joel Price

31 Park of Commerce Way, Suite 200-B

Savannah, Georgia 31405

<u>Location of Proposed Work</u>: The site is nine miles northeast of Macon at the Lite-n-Tie Road Exit off Highway 49. The site is in Jones County, Georgia at Latitude 32.932295° North and Longitude 83.508139° West. Please see the attached Site Location Map.

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers: The proposed action would expand the Aggregates USA Macon Quarry. The quarry, in operation since 1958, would be expanded in three phases adding fifty years of production to the quarry. Phase One is for the first ten years, Phase Two begins at year twenty, with Phase Three beginning at year thirty.

The expansion site would initially provide storage for overburden from the existing quarry. The existing mine would later remove this overburden for use in reclamation. After removal of the overburden the expansion site would be mined.

Each phase of the expansion would discharge fill into waters of the United States. A total of 2100 linear feet of stream, 0.5 acre of wetland, and 7.5 acres of open waters would be filled. Prior to beginning each phase the applicant would compensate for the impact to waters of United States by purchasing mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank.

AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION, AND MITIGATION

Expanding the existing site, rather than beginning an entirely new site, would impact less waters of the United States. Roads, railroads, and much infrastructure for the existing mining operation could serve the expanded operation. The total mitigation required for all three phases of the project: 6,754.6 stream credits and 51.3 wetland credits.

BACKGROUND

This Joint Public Notice announces a request for authorizations from both the US Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Georgia. The applicant's proposed work may also require local government approval.

STATE OF GEORGIA

Water Quality Certification: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, intends to certify this project at the end of 30 days in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, which is required by an applicant for a Federal Permit to conduct an activity in, on, or adjacent to the waters of the State of Georgia. Copies of the application and supporting documents relative to a specific application will be available for review and copying at the office of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, Water Protection Branch, 4220 International Parkway, Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30354, during regular office hours. A copier machine is available for public use at a charge of 25 cents per page. Any person who desires to comment, object, or request a public hearing relative to State Water Quality Certification must do so within 30 days of the State's receipt of the application in writing and state the reasons or basis of objections or request for a hearing. The application can also be seen in the Savannah District US Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch, Piedmont Branch, 1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200, Morrow, Georgia.

<u>State-owned Property and Resources</u>: The applicant may also require assent from the State of Georgia which may be in the form of a license, easement, lease, permit, or other appropriate instrument.

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The Savannah District must consider the purpose and the impacts of the applicant's proposed work, prior to a decision on issuance of a Department of the Army Permit.

<u>Cultural Resources Assessment</u>: Brockington and Associates conducted a Phase I Archaeological Survey of the site. Five sites within or near the project site are considered eligible for registry in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). USACE will review the Phase I report and make a determination concerning the results of the survey. This determination will be coordinated with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office.

Threatened and Endangered Species: Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), we request from the US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, or any other interested party, information on whether any species listed or proposed for listing may be present in the area.

<u>Public Interest Review</u>: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Consideration of Public Comments: The US Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native American Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the US Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Application of Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines: The proposed activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States. The Savannah District's evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgates by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

<u>Public Hearing</u>: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for requesting a public hearing. The decision whether to hold a public hearing is at the discretion of the District Engineer, or his designated appointee, based on the need for additional substantial information necessary in evaluating the proposed project.

<u>Comment Period</u>: Anyone wishing to comment on this application for a Department of the Army Permit should submit comments in writing to the Savannah District, US Army Corps of Engineers, Piedmont Branch, Attention: Mr. Gary L. Craig, 1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200, Morrow, Georgia 30260-1777, no later than 30 days from the date of this notice. Refer to application number 200900700 in your comments.

Contact Mr. Gary L. Craig at (678) 422-2728 if you have questions.

Enclosure:

Site Location Map

